

**Minutes of the East Greenwich School Committee
Tuesday, July 12, 2011
East Greenwich Police Station Community Room
176 First Avenue
East Greenwich, RI 02818**

The regular session of the East Greenwich School Committee was called to order in the Community Room of the East Greenwich Police Station at 7:16p.m. by Chair, Dr. Deidre Gifford. Those in attendance were: Mr. Robert Durant, Vice Chair; Mrs. Susan Records; Mrs. Mary Ellen Winters; Mr. David Green; Mr. Paul Martin; and Mr. Jack Sommer. Superintendent Dr. Victor Mercurio; Director of Administration, Mrs. Maryanne Crawford; Director of Facilities, Mr. Robert Wilmarth; and Director of Student Services, Mrs. Paula Dillon were also present.

7:07p.m. Regular Meeting

I. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

II. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

III. Approval of Minutes

a. Executive for 5/31/11

b. Executive for 6/14/11

c. Executive for 6/16/11

d. Regular and Executive for 6/28/11

On a motion by Mr. Durant, which was seconded by Mr. Green, the regular and executive minutes listed above were unanimously approved (7-0).

IV. Superintendent's Report

The second round of interviews for the EGHS Assistant Principal are scheduled for July 19, 2011 in executive session with the School Committee. The screening committee for the Hanaford Principal will start interviewing on July 19, 2011. Meadowbrook School will pilot a peer model tuition program which will integrate 15-17 children into the pre-k program. Students will be chosen by lottery.

V. School Committee Concerns

Mr. Martin would like future agenda items discussed during "School Committee Concerns." Mr. Martin also suggested that School Committee members return all confidential applicant information to the Superintendent's office for shredding after School Committee appointment. Mrs. Records questioned whether Dr. Mercurio had further information regarding Jamestown students attending East Greenwich High School. Dr. Mercurio said Jamestown may study the high school, but all requests will need School Committee approval. Dr. Gifford asked Mrs. Records to send the Committee the evaluation tool for Dr. Mercurio's contract review which will take place in August or September.

VI. Action Items

a. Home School Approval for 2011-2012 – Grade 9

This item was tabled.

b. Approval- EGHS Student Handbook for 2011-2012

Mr. Podraza discussed the handbook noting there are no new items except under academics and state testing. The Student Code of Conduct will be given to students under separate cover. It is currently being reviewed by Attorney Marcaccio. It will go before the School Committee for approval during the next meeting. The Committee noted a few revisions that need to be made to the handbook (due to duplications, uniformity, etc.). On a motion by Mr. Durant, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee unanimously approved (7-0) the East Greenwich High School Student Handbook for 2011-2012.

c. Building Committee – Project Discussion

Mr. Gowell called to order the joint meeting of the Building Committee and School Committee. Mr. Winakur and Mr. Romeo of SBS were present for this discussion. The Building Committee gave an update on projects, made a recommendation for the East Greenwich High School Library, and presented a recap of the budget. Mr. Romeo gave the Committee a summary of Cole noting phase two has been completed and phase three has begun (punch list and demolition). A mechanical engineer is coming out tomorrow for the third time to check the air flow and water flow. The commission process will be completed before school opens. Mr. Green questioned whether there is a plan to develop a matrix of the building to track temperatures and get a snapshot of the temperature on each floor. Mr. Romeo said he is meeting with the contractor tomorrow and Mr. Wilmarth and his staff should be able to track temperature trends. Mr. Winakur discussed the formal commission process which will check the system by going through the paces and will flag any problems. Mr. Green asked if there is recourse if the classrooms are too hot in the spring. Mr. Winakur said the building is not air conditioned, but acknowledges there needs to be an acceptable tolerance. The engineers have the design parameters for the seasons and will run the system through the simulation. Mr. Romeo discussed the demolition and the new parking lot.

Mr. Winakur discussed the renovations to the high school roof and noted twenty-four people are working from 7:00a.m.-6:00 p.m. each day to complete the project before the start of school. Last Friday, there were leaks and Servpro was called in. The majority of the building was dry, but it is being checked daily.

Mr. Frenette from S.M.M.A. discussed the three library renovations that were presented at previous meetings. Three alternate plans were discussed: Alternate #1 – which is to move a wall by taking out stairs which will open up about 800 square feet, Alternate #2 which will eliminate the stairs and open up two classroom spaces and increase the lounge space, Alternate #3 which will put the lounge in the middle of the library to open up more space. There is also an option to enhance the outside courtyard adding an amphitheater. The Committee discussed the options and the costs which range from approximately \$1.4 million to \$1.6 million. Mr. Frenette explained the cost of adding one additional classroom is approximately \$250-\$300,000. The Committee questioned whether two additional classrooms are needed. Mr. Gowell said the Building Committee identified six classrooms as necessary. Mr. Podraza gave input on space needs discussing technology and moving special education programs.

Mr. Durant noted the cost of the renovation was less during previous presentations. Mr. Green questioned whether the library hours will be changed to accommodate students before and after school. Dr. Mercurio stated he had preliminary conversations regarding the time change. Dr. Gifford questioned whether the main issue with the library is the technology and the hours of operation. She questioned whether fixing those issues and adding new furniture, paint, lighting, and windows would enhance the library without making costly structural changes. Dr. Mercurio discussed the NEASC report and noted the trend is to create spaces that are flexible rather than lab-type classrooms. Mr. Gowell asked the Building Committee to express their opinion on the renovations. On a motion by Mr. Yoder, which was seconded by Mrs. Jansen, the Building Committee voted unanimously to proceed with their recommendation to the School Committee to expand the library space and consider the alternates as add-ons. The School Committee requested additional information from Mr. Frenette and will not vote until the information is reviewed. Members of the Building Committee left at 8:59 p.m.

VII. Discussion Items

a. Fields' MOU

The Committee discussed the MOU and the language surrounding responsibilities. Dr. Mercurio needs to discuss the language with the town manager. Dr. Gifford would like a subcommittee made up of School Committee members and Town Council members to review the MOU. Dr. Gifford, Mrs. Winters, and Mr. Martin volunteered for the subcommittee. Mrs. Winters would like to discuss the rental of the turf field at the next School Committee meeting. Mrs. Winters noted when the Fields' Committee met, there were no issues regarding scheduling and playing time. Mr. Sommer questioned soccer and basketball scheduling and would like the scheduling monitored and would like an update on utilization. New scheduling software will be used in the fall for athletics. The town needs to be aware of this new module. Dr. Gifford would like an annual review of the scheduling process by the Fields' Committee.

b. Chorus Program Proposal

The chorus position has been vacated and Dr. Mercurio is proposing a reduction in position from 1.0 FTE to .5FTE. A stipend position for before or after school is also being proposed. Students will have the same opportunities for chorus as they did previously. A .5FTE teacher will teach at Cole and the EGHS. Dr. Mercurio needs to follow-up with the union on this proposal. Mrs. Winters would like to be part of the search committee for the chorus teacher and the .8 Orchestra position at Cole. A job description will need to be written for the choral position. Dr. Gifford would like a summary of staff changes once all jobs have been filled.

VIII. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Durant, which was seconded by Mr. Martin, the Committee voted unanimously (7-0) to adjourn at 9:52 p.m.

CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO
SECRETARY